ment, moral, intellectual, or spiritual, is doomed to suffering and destruction.

Roderick's tragedy is the tragedy of an artist who fails to comprehend cr exercise intellectual refinement as an aesthetic absolute.: A devoted artist should have the refinement of the mind in order to foresee the pitfalls of blind and passionate involvement. While being intensely aware of the fruits of deeply involved and felt experiences, the artist should have tne patient detachment of the intellect in order to concretise his assimilated experiences into the illuminations of artistic reality. Commenting on James's presentation of the successful artist in his fiction, Maurice Beebe remarks that the successful artist in James's fiction is almost always seen with his back turned, which is a symbol of the detachment required for success.[3] Roderick has the flair for "the simple, sensuous, confident relish of pleasure" but he is withcut the salutary detachment born of intellectual refinement. No artist should be a slave to his passions, but Roderick is. Cultivation of passions by an artist is not in itself a bad thing, but overindulgence in them is definitely harmful. Rowland rightly remarks, "a man of genius owes as much deference to his passions as any other, but not a particle more."[4] In fine, ''nothing in excess" should be the motto for the artist.

Roderick is launched into the world by his patron, Rowland, and thrown into the midst of temptations in order that he might make, "love to opportunity" and refine his consciousness and sensibility for* artistic excellence. But the opportunities that come his way are wasted, for Roderick is not a master of his passions. Torn between the pulls of art on one side and passion on the other, Roderick allows himself to be swept away and destroyed by his passion. The artist is better without excesses of emotion and passion. Poor Roderick is caught in a whirlpool of emotions and passions from which he is unable to escape, because he is by nature very passionate and emo-

tional, and to this is added the "stimulus of strong emotion" and
"precarious passion". Furthermore, he has "a Urge capacity for ruin",
and the result is that, although he has genius, he is rendered sterile
as an artist by his negative qualities. No artist could afford to be
egotistical, for that would spoil "the essential good health of the
sincere imagination", but Roderick is egotistical, cruel and obstinate.
An artist with intellectual refinement possesses a consciousness which
is highly sensitive, sympathetic and at the same time, objectivei an^d.